

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **11 August 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-27, 29, and 30. Claims 1-5, 9-15, 19-25, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold (USPN 6,275,848, hereinafter “Arnold”) in view of what is well known in the art in further view of Beck et al (USPN 5,903,723, hereinafter “Beck”) in further view of Young et al (USPN 6,243,466, hereinafter “Young”) and in further view of Eldridge et al (USPN 6,397,261, hereinafter “Eldridge”). Claims 6, 16, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of what is well known in the art, Beck, Young, and Eldridge in further view of Pollack (USPN 6,505,236, hereinafter “Pollack”) in further view of Trenbeath et al (USPN 6,324,587, hereinafter “Trenbeath”) in further view of Birrell et al (USPN 6,092,101, hereinafter “Birrell”). Claims 7, 17, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of what is well known in the art, Beck, Young, and Eldridge in further view Birrell.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Arnold in view of what is well known in the art in further view of Beck in further view of Young and in further view of Eldridge. Applicant respectfully points out that the combined system of Arnold, Beck, Young, and Eldridge teaches providing the decryption key **along with the message**, either stored within the e-mail primary message, within an attachment reference, or attached as a separate decryption key attachment to the e-mail primary message (see Beck, col. 7, lines 19-40). The combined system of Arnold, Beck, Young, and Eldridge is concerned with privacy and authentication.

In contrast, the present invention supplies the decryption key **in response to receiving a receipt** for the encrypted version of the attachment, wherein the receipt proves reception of the exact contents of the attachment (see page 10,

line 25 to page 11, line 2 of the instant application). Supplying the decryption key in response to receiving a receipt provides proof of the exact contents of the received attachment, and facilitates non-repudiation of delivery.

The combined system of Arnold, Beck, Young, and Eldridge **cannot** provide such non-repudiation because the decryption key is received along with the message and the recipient does not have to send a cryptographic receipt (a hash of the encrypted message). There is nothing within Arnold, Beck, Young, or Eldridge, either separately or in concert, which suggests supplying the decryption key in response to receiving a receipt for the encrypted version of the attachment, wherein the receipt proves reception of the exact contents of the attachment.


Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to clarify that the present invention supplies the decryption key in response to receiving a receipt for the encrypted version of the attachment, wherein the receipt proves reception of the exact contents of the attachment. These amendments find support on page 10, line 25 to page 11, line 2 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-7 and 9-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-17 and 19-20, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-27 and 29-30, which depend upon claim 21, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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